Helios B-Deep Space Network Compatibility Test Summary

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The DSN-Helios B-compatibility testing followed a very successful three-phase compatibility test program for the Helios prototype and Helios 1 spacecraft. This article covers the tests from arrival of Helios B at Cape Canaveral, Florida through launch. The compatibility tests consisted of (1) DSN-spacecraft radio frequency tests at both weak and strong signal levels, and (2) verification of radio frequency compatibility with the Helios B mated to the launch vehicle at Launch Complex 41.

I. Introduction

This report covers the DSN-Helios B compatibility testing that extended over 48 hours from October 31 through November 4, 1975, and for 8 hours on January 10, 1976. The compatibility tests performed during these periods were divided as follows:

- (1) DSN-spacecraft radio frequency (RF) tests at both weak and strong signal levels during October 31 through November 4, 1975.
- (2) Verification of RF compatibility performed on January 10, 1976, with Helios B mated to the launch vehicle at Launch Complex 41.

The DSN-Helios B compatibility testing followed a very successful three-phase program of compatibility test-

ing between the DSN and the Helios prototype spacecraft (Ref. 1) and Helios 1 (Ref. 2).

II. Test Report

The DSN-Helios telecommunications compatibility testing utilized a test system that was operationally representative of a standard Deep Space Station (DSS). The test system was under control of a computer to provide appropriate test conditions in an automatic mode of operation.

The spacecraft configurations were agreed upon by the Flight Project and the DSN. Spacecraft modes were selected to exercise a representative subset of all possible configurations and to minimize the time required for completion of an adequate test program.

A. Telecommunications Compatibility Tests

These tests provided an assessment of telecommunications compatibility status between Helios B and the Network based upon the results obtained between the DSN equipment in the Spaceflight Tracking and Data Network station (STDN MIL 71) and Helios B.

These tests were the final phase of the documented three-phase plan for establishing telecommunications compatibility between the Network and the Helios B spacecraft.

Procedures for conducting the tests were prepared by the DSN. Test parameters and spacecraft design criteria were provided by the Helios spacecraft telecommunications engineers. The final procedures and test plans were approved by the DSN and the Helios Project telecommunications representatives. In particular, the latter personnel provided extensive support during the test procedure preparation and test planning phases. The successful completion of the tests was due in large measure to the excellent support provided by JPL and STDN management and operating personnel.

- 1. Test objectives. A selected set of standard tests for verifying transponder radio frequency, command, telemetry, and metric data compatibility were performed in accordance with the Network Test and Training Plan for the Helios Project.
- 2. Test description. Helios B was configured for flight operations and STDN (MIL 71) was configured to simulate a DSS. The spacecraft was located in the clean room of Building AO, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, and STDN (MIL 71) is located at Merritt Island, Florida. An S-band radio frequency link of approximately 16 km (10 miles) was used between a 1.85-m antenna at Building AO and a 1.2-m antenna at the STDN station. RF link amplitude variations were 0.5 dB peak-to-peak for the critical tests in telemetry and command.

The STDN station software utilized in performing these tests was supplied by the DSN and was a subset of software officially released to the station for Helios Project support. The programs consisted of:

(1) Telemetry and Command Data Handling Program. This program provides independent control of the commanding and telemetry handling functions. Commands may be controlled manually from the station or automatically from the Mission Control

- and Computing Center in Pasadena, Calif. Telemetry may be decoded, formatted, and transmitted to the Mission Control and Computing Center for decommutation and display.
- (2) Planetary Ranging Assembly Program. This program provides either continuous spectrum or discrete spectrum operation for making very accurate range estimates of a spacecraft at planetary distances.

Tests performed for radio frequency acquisition and tracking performance, telemetry, command and metric data generation are as follows:

Radio Frequency Acquisition and Tracking
Noncoherent downlink threshold
Uplink threshold
Coherent downlink threshold
Spacecraft maximum sweep and acquisition
Carrier residual phase jitter
Subcarrier frequency and phase jitter

Command

Spacecraft command threshold, 512-Hz subcarrier Spacecraft command threshold, 448-Hz subcarrier

Radio Metric

Ranging channel delay Ranging polarity Ranging system acquisition time

Telemetry

Downlink spectrum analysis Telemetry bit error rate test Telemetry erasure rate

- 3. Test results. Table 1 provides the test results. Significant events and/or other items are discussed below:
 - (1) During the radio frequency acquisition and tracking tests and radio metric tests, the first downlink threshold measurement was unsuccessful because of excessive RF leakage into the ground receiver. A faulty antenna system was discovered at MIL 71 and replaced. Testing was successfully completed.
 - (2) Because of ranging channel problems encountered with Helios 1 in October 1975, the radio metric tests performed on Helios B were monitored very closely for any significant deviation from expected performance. There were no anomalies or out-oftolerance results observed. The spacecraft ranging function performed successfully to all criteria and operating parameters.

(3) In performing the telemetry bit error rate test, it was necessary to modify the procedure. It was noted that large concentrations of low transition densities were present in the data. This condition was manifesting itself in erratic signal-to-noise estimations and bit error counts in the Symbol Synchronizer Assembly. A check with the spacecraft revealed that all experiments were turned off, thereby resulting in no data when these experiments appeared on the spacecraft commutator. By direction of the project, the spacecraft test conductor was not allowed to turn all experiments on. In order to perform the bit error rate tests in the most meaningful manner, it was decided to switch the spacecraft to the coded mode, thereby increasing the data transition density. Therefore, the 8-b/s test was performed at 16 s/s, and the 32-b/s test was performed at 64 s/s. The downlink signal levels were adjusted to correct for the different data rate, and the tests were successfully completed.

B. Radio Frequency and Data Verification Tests

These tests provided an assessment of telecommunications compatibility status between the DSN, represented by STDN (MIL 71) and Helios B after encapsulation and mating to the launch vehicle. These tests, conducted on January 10, 1976, were a subset of tests performed previously between Helios B and STDN (MIL 71) in October and November 1975.

Procedures for conducting these tests were prepared by the DSN, and spacecraft test parameters and design criteria were provided by the Helios spacecraft telecommunications engineers. The final procedures were approved by the DSN and Helios Project telecommunications representatives.

- 1. Test objective. The objective of the tests was to verify continued compatibility between the DSN and the Helios spacecraft after the spacecraft had been configured for launch operations. All tests were accomplished in accordance with the Network Test and Training Plan for the Helios Project.
- 2. Test description. The Helios spacecraft was in launch configuration, and STDN (MIL 71) was configured to simulate a DSN station. The spacecraft was located at Launch Complex 41, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida, and STDN (MIL 71) was located at Merritt Island, Florida. An S-band link of approximately 16 km (10 miles) was utilized to establish the spacecraft—

ground station interface. The spacecraft transmit–receive function was performed by connecting a test point at the shroud to a 1.2-m antenna connected to the launch service tower.

The ground station software utilized in performing these tests was supplied by the DSN and was a subset of software officially released to the station for Helios Project support. The programs consisted of:

- (1) Telemetry and Command Data Handling Program. This program provides independent control of the commanding and telemetry handling functions. Commands may be controlled manually from the station or automatically from the Mission Control and Computing Center in Pasadena. Telemetry may be decoded, formatted, and transmitted to the Mission Control and Computing Center for decommutation and display.
- (2) Planetary Ranging Assembly Program. This program provides either continuous spectrum or discrete spectrum operation for determining very accurate range estimates of a spacecraft at planetary distances.
- (3) Helios Decommutation and Data Validation Program. This program provides the capability of decommutating spacecraft engineering data and display at the station for verifying spacecraft parameters during compatibility testing.

Tests performed for radio frequency acquisition and tracking performance, telemetry, command and metric data generation are as follows:

Radio Frequency Acquisition and Tracking
Noncoherent downlink threshold
Uplink threshold
Spacecraft maximum sweep and acquisition

Command

Spacecraft command performance, 512-Hz subcarrier Spacecraft command performance, 448-Hz subcarrier

Radio Metric

Ranging system acquisition time

Telemetry

Telemetry performance test, 128 b/s Telemetry performance test, 1024 b/s

3. Test results. Table 2 provides the test results. (Table 3 gives definitions for abbreviations in Tables 1

and 2.) Significant events and/or other items are discussed below:

- (1) During the radio frequency acquisition and tracking tests, the initial efforts to perform the spacecraft maximum sweep and acquisition test and the uplink threshold tests were seriously hampered by large fluctuations of the link (5 dB). These fluctuations were isolated to the heavy traffic and activities being conducted on the launch tower by launch vehicle personnel. When that activity ceased, the tests were successfully performed. It is highly recommended that future tests be conducted during periods of minimum activity at the launch vehicle.
- (2) No problems were encountered in the command, radio metric, and telemetry tests.

III. Conclusions

The formal DSN-Helios compatibility program was very successful and terminated in the successful launching of both Helios 1 and Helios 2 spacecraft. Helios 1 was launched on December 10, 1974, followed by Helios 2 on January 15, 1976.

The importance of a formal compatibility test program is clearly demonstrated by the problem areas uncovered, verified and resolved during the DSN-Helios testing.

Prominent problem areas discovered and resolved during this test program were:

- (1) Deficiencies in the engineering model transponder. The transponder exhibited lack of sensitivity, pushing effects at strong uplink signal levels, instability of the voltage-controlled crystal oscillator, and improper shielding.
- (2) Polarity of the ranging channel in the Helios 1 spacecraft was inverted. This condition was different from the prototype spacecraft.
- (3) Many hundreds of hours of test time were used at the old DSN station (DSS 71) to determine optimum modulation indices for the Helios Mission. A full description of this testing was published in Ref. 3.
- (4) An elaborate test system to simulate uplink and downlink amplitude, phase, and frequency modulation conditions during the spacecraft Step II maneuver was performed. This simulation demonstrated that the spacecraft could be successfully commanded during this very critical phase of flight.

Had these problems remained undetected and unresolved prior to launch, serious operational problems to the Network with the spacecraft in flight would have resulted.

References

- 1. Bryan, A. I., "Helios Prototype Spacecraft Deep Space Network Compatibility Test Summary," in *The Deep Space Network Progress Report 42-23*, pp. 22–36, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif., Oct. 15, 1974.
- 2. Bryan, A. I., "Helios Flight 1 Spacecraft/Deep Space Network Compatibility Test Summary," in *The Deep Space Network Progress Report 42-26*, pp. 27–40, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif., Apr. 15, 1975.
- 3. Layland, J. W., "DSS Tests of Sequential Decoding Performance," in *The Deep Space Network Progress Report 42-20*, pp. 69–77, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif., Apr. 15, 1974.

| . | | | Deep Space Network | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|-------------|---|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------|-------------|--|
| Test date, 1975 | Test title | Test No. | RCV | EXC | PRA RNG | CMD | Uplink doppler | Uplink offset | CMA SUBC offset | SDA SUBC offset | CAR SUP | Bit rate | |
| 10/10 | SC maximum sweep and acquisition rate | I.1 | Blk IV, 2295.404288 MHz | BLK IV, 2113.65300 MHz | Off | Off | 500 Hz | -30.0 KHz | NA | NA | High | 2048 | |
| | | | Same | Same | Off | Off | 500 Hz | +30.0 KHz | NA | NA | High | 2048 | |
| | | | Same | Same | Off | Off | 80 Hz | -9.7 K Hz | NA | NA | High | 2048 | |
| | | | Same | Same | Off | Off | 80 Hz | +9.9 KHz | NA | NA | High | 2048 | |
| 11/3 | Downlink spectrum analysis | II.1 | BLK IV, -110 dBm, 2295.369920 MHz, | NA | Off | Off | NA | NA | NA | NA | High | 2048 | |
| | | 11.2 | Same | NA | Off | Off | NA | NA | NA | NA | High | 128 | |
| | | II.3 | Same | NA | Off | Off | NA | NA | NA | NA | Low | 32 | |
| | | II.7 | 2295.359896 MHz —79 dBm | 2113.643904 MHz | On (idle seq.) | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | High | 204 | |
| | | II.10 | Same | Same | On | On | NA | NA | NA | NA | High | 128 | |
| 11/31 | Uplink threshold | III.1 | BLK IV, - 100 dBm, 2295.369632 MHz | BLK IV, 2113.653000 MHz | Off | Off | NA | NA | NA. | NA | High | 128 | |
| | | III.2 | Same | Same | On | Off | NA. | NA | NA | NA | High | 128 | |
| | | III.3 | Same | Same | Off | Off | NA | NA | NA | NA | High | 128 | |
| 10/31 | Carrier residual phase jitter | IV.1 | BLK IV, -104 dBm, 2295.369728 MHz | BLK IV, 2113.653000 MHz | Off | Off | NA | NA | NA | NA | High | 204 | |
| | | IV.2 | BLK IV, -100 dBm, 2295.365024 MHz | BLK IV, 2113.653000 MHz | Off | Off | NA | NA | NA | NA | High | 204 | |
| | | IV.3 | BLK IV. -104 dBm, 2295.369728 | BLK IV. 2113.653000 MHz | Off | Off | NA | NA | NA | NA _. | High | 204 | |
| | | | MHz | | Off | Off | NA | NA | NA | NA | High | 204 | |

Table 1. DSN-Helios B telecommunications test summary

| | | Spacecra | aft | | | | | Test | data | | |
|-----|--------------------|----------|-----|-----|-----|----------|----------|---|---|-------------|---|
| EXC | RCV | PWR | ANT | TWT | RNG | SC DM | SC FM | Performance | Criteria | Test time | Test Comments |
| 1 | 1 102 dBm | НР | MGA | 2 | Off | 0 | 4 | Acquired at -100 dBm; tracked to +65 kHz | Acquire at100 dBm; track to +32.5 kHz | 2 hr 32 min | Acquired UL at best lock (VCX01) |
| 1 | 1 -102 dBm | HP | MGA | 2 | Off | 0 | 4 | Acquired at -100 dBm; tracked to -32.5 kHz | Acquire at -100 dBm; track to -32.5 kHz | 2 hr 32 min | Acquired UL at best lock (VCX01) |
| 1 | 1 -102 dBm | HP | MGA | 2 | Off | 0 | 4 | Acquired at -141 dBm; tracked to $+32.5 \mathrm{\ kHz}$ | Acquire at -141 dBm; track to $+32.5$ kHz | 2 hr 32 min | Revr 2 OK; Revr 1 dropped +7 kHz at -141 \pm 1; both revr's OK at $-139 \pm$ 1 |
| 1 | 1 102 dBm | HP | MGA | 2 | Off | 0 | 4 | Acquired at -141 dBm; tracked to -32.5 kHz | Acquire at -141 dBm; track to $-32.5 \mathrm{kHz}$ | 2 hr 32 min | Acquired UL at best lock (VCX01) |
| 1 | 1 | НР | MGA | 1 | Off | 0 | 4 | No spurs observed | No spurious signal within 30 dB of the carrier | 9 min | Subcarrier osc No. 2 noncoherent mode |
| 1 | 1 | LP | LGA | NA | Off | 0 | 4 | No spurs observed | No spurious signal within 30 dB of the carrier | 41 min | Subcarrier osc No. 1 noncoherent mode |
| 1 | 1 | LP | LGA | NA. | Off | 0 | 4 | No spurs observed | No spurious signal within 30 dB of the carrier | 10 min | Subcarrier osc No. 1 noncoherent mode |
| 1 | 1 103.5 dBm | LP | LGA | 1 | Off | 0 | 4 | No spurs observed | No spurious signal within 30 dB of the carrier | 22 min | VCX01, coherent (Goldstone first acq.) mode |
| 1 | 1 -103.5 dBm | HP | MGA | . 1 | On | 0 | 4 | No spurs observed | No spurious signal within 30 dB of the carrier | 15 min | VCX01, coherent |
| 1 | 1 | НР | MGA | . 2 | Off | 0 | 4 | —154.5 dBm | −155.0 ±1.0 dBm | 50 min | Threshold value is average of 3 measurements. Link variations of ±1.5 dB were |
| 1 | 1 | HP | MGA | . 2 | On | 0 | 4 | -153.5 dBm | $-155.0 \pm 1.0 \text{ dBm}$ | 31 min | noted in Subtest 2 |
| 1 | 2 | HP | LGA | . 2 | Off | 0 | 4 | -154.83 dBm | $-155.0\pm1.0~{ m dBm}$ | 48 min | |
| 1 | 1 105 dBm | НР | MGA | 1 | Off | 0 | 4 | 4.93 deg rms | 5.7 deg rms | 16 min | |
| 2 | 1 -102 dBm | НР | MGA | . 2 | Off | 0 | 4 | 3.275 deg rms | 5.7 deg rms | 30 min | RF link variation |
| 1 | 1 -104 dBm | HP | MGA | . 2 | Off | 0 | 4 | 1.77 deg rms | 2.86 deg rms | 36 min | 10 dB p-p |
| 1 | 1 104 dBm | HP | MGA | 2 | Off | 0 | 4 | 14.08 deg rms | 22.9 deg rms | | F-2 SC exhibited greater residual phase jitter than F-1 SC because of aux. osc. crystals. Inferior performance not unexpected but still met criteria. |

| RCV | EVC | DDA | | | | C) () | CDA | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| | EXC | PRA RNG | CMD | Uplink doppler | Uplink offset | CMA SUBC offset | SDA SUBC offset | CAR SUP | Bit rate |
| BLK IV, -104 dBm, 2295.369728 MHz | BLK IV, 2113.653000 MHz | Off | Off | NA | NA | NA | NA | High | 2048 |
| | | Off | Off | NA | NA | NA | NA | High | 2048 |
| BLK IV, -146 dBm, 2295.369774 MHz | BLK IV, 2113.653000 MHz | Off | Off | NA | NA | NA | NA | Low | 8 (coded |
| BLK IV, -140 dBm | BLK IV, 2113.653000 MHz | Off | Off | NA | NA | NA | NA | Low | 32 (coded |
| BLK IV, -143.5 dBm, 2295.369800 MHz | BLK IV, 2113.653024 MHz | Off | On | NA | NA | NA | NA | High | 128 |
| BLK IV, -138 dBm, 2295.369800 MHz | 2113.653024 MHz | On | On | NA | NA | NA | NA | High | 512 |
| BLK IV, -134.5 dBm, 2295.369800 MHz | BLK IV, 2113.653024 MHz | Off | On | NA. | NA | NA | NA | High | 1024 |
| BLK IV, -104 dBm, 2295.369728 MHz | BLK IV, 2113.653000 MHz | Off | Off | NA | NA | NA | NA | High | 128 |
| BLK IV. 104 dBm, 2295.369728 MHz | BLK IV, 2113.653000 MHz | Off | Off | NA | NA | NA | NA | High | 128 |
| Blk IV, 104 dBm, 2295.369728 MHz | BLK IV, 2113.653000 MHz | Off | Off | NA | NA | NA | NA | High | 128 |
| BLK IV, -100 dBm, 2295.369774 MHz | BLK IV, 2113.653000 MHz | Off | On | NA | NA | NA | NA | High | 128 |
| Same | Same | On | On | NA | NA | NA | NA | High | 512 |
| Same | Same | Off | On | NA | NA | NA | NA | High | 1024 |
| XI.2 XI.3 | 2295.369774 MHz XI.2 Same | 2295.369774 MHz MHz XI.2 Same Same | 2295.369774 MHz MHz XI.2 Same Same On | 2295.369774 MHz MHz XI.2 Same Same On On | 2295.369774 MHz MHz XI.2 Same Same On On NA | 2295.369774 MHz MHz XI.2 Same Same On On NA NA | 2295.369774 MHz MHz XI.2 Same Same On On NA NA NA | 2295.369774 MHz MHz XI.2 Same Same On On NA NA NA NA | 2295.369774 MHz MHz XI.2 Same Same On On NA NA NA NA High |
| | BLK IV, —146 dBm, 2295.369774 MHz BLK IV, —140 dBm BLK IV, —143.5 dBm, 2295.369800 MHz BLK IV, —138 dBm, 2295.369800 MHz BLK IV, —134.5 dBm, 2295.369800 MHz BLK IV, —104 dBm, 2295.369728 MHz Blk IV, —104 dBm, 2295.369778 MHz BLK IV, —104 dBm, 2295.369778 MHz Same | BLK IV, —146 dBm, —13653000 MHz BLK IV, —140 dBm BLK IV, —140 dBm BLK IV, —143.5 dBm, —138 dBm, —2295.369800 MHz BLK IV, —134.5 dBm, —134.5 dBm, —134.5 dBm, —2295.369800 MHz BLK IV, —134.5 dBm, —134.5 dBm, —134.5 dBm, —134.5 dBm, —2295.369800 MHz BLK IV, —134.5 dBm, —134.5 dBm, —134.5 dBm, —134.5 dBm, —2295.369780 MHz BLK IV, —104 dBm, —113.653000 MHz BLK IV, —104 dBm, —2113.653000 MHz BLK IV, —100 dBm, —2113.653000 | ### BLK IV, | ### BLK IV, BLK IV, Off Off Off Off Off Off Off Off Off Of | ### Description of the image of | ### BLK IV, | BLK IV, | BLK IV, | BLK IV, |

Table 1 (contd)

| Spacecraft | | | | | | | | Test d | _ | Comments | |
|------------|--------------------|----|-----|----------|-------------|-----------|---|---|---|-------------|---|
| EXC | RCV | | | SC FM | Performance | Test time | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 -104 dBm | НР | LGA | 2 | Off | 0 | 4 | 2.05 deg rms | 2.86 deg rms | 23 min | |
| 1 | 2, 104 dBm | НР | LGA | 2 | Off | 0 | 4 | 14.57 deg rms | 22.9 deg rms | | |
| 1 | 1 -135 dBm | HP | MGA | 2 | Off | 0 | 4 | 1.7 × 10-4 | 10-4 | 2 hr 27 min | Coded mode |
| 1 | 1 -130 dBm | НР | MGA | 2 | Off | 0 | 4 | 1.3 × 10-5 | 10-4 | 3 hr 4 min | Coded mode |
| 1 | 1 -128.1 dBm | HP | MGA | 2 | Off | 0 | 4 | $TCP a = 0$ $TCP \beta = 0$ | 10-3 | 628 min | |
| 1 | 1 -126 dBm | HP | MGA | 2 | On | 0 | 4 | $TCP \alpha = 0$ $TCP \beta = 0$ | 10-3 | 115 min | |
| 1 | 1 -133 dBm | HP | HGA | 2 | Off | 0 | 4 | TCP $\alpha = 1.99 \times 10^{-4}$ TCP $\beta = 7.98 \times 10^{-4}$ | 10-3 | 208 min | |
| 1 | -105 dBm | LP | LGA | NA | Off | 0 | 4 | 0.505 deg rms 32,768 Hz | 1.15 deg rms 32,768 Hz | 38 min | SC DHE osc. No. 1 Chain 1 |
| 2 | NA -105 dBm | LP | LGA | NA | Off | 0 | 4 | 0.505 deg rms 32,768 Hz | 1.15 deg rms 32,768 Hz | 12 min | SC DHE osc. No. 1 Chain 2 |
| 2 | NA 105 dBm | LP | LGA | NA | Off | 0 | 4 | 0.51 deg rms 32,768 Hz | 1.15 deg rms 32,768 Hz | 10 min | SC DHE osc. No. 2 Chain 2 |
| 1 | 1 -144 dBm | HP | MGA | 2 | Off | 0 | 4 | 54 commands accepted and processed | All commands accepted by SC | 37 min | VCOX1, coherent, command SC at 512 Hz |
| 1 | 1 -137 dBm | НР | MGA | | On | 0 | 4 | 54 commands accepted and processed | All commands accepted by SC | 25 min | |
| 1 | 2 -144 dBm | HP | HGA | 2 | Off | 0 | 4 | 54 commands accepted and processed | All commands (continuous) accepted and processed | 38 min | VCX02, coherent, command SC at 448 Hz |

| Test date, 1976 | | | Deep Space Network | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|-------------|---------------------------------|---|------------|-----|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------|-------------|--|
| | Test title | Test No. | RCV | EXC | PRA RNG | CMD | Uplink doppler | Uplink offset | CMA SUBC offset | SDA SUBC offset | CAR SUP | Bit rate | |
| 1/10 | SC maximum sweep and acquisition rate | I.1 | −97 dBm | 2113.621152 MHz to 2113.685856 MHz | Off | Off | 500 Hz | -30 kHz to +32.5 kHz | NA | NA | High | 2048 | |
| | | | −97 dBm | 2113.682976 MHz to 2113.618560 MHz | Off | Off | 500 Hz | +30 kHz to -32.9 kHz | NA | NA | High | 2048 | |
| 1/10 | Uplink threshold | III.1 | -115 dBm, 2295.368688 MHz | 2113.652000 MHz | Off | Off | NA | NA | NA | NA | High | 2048 | |
| | | III.3 | -115 dBm, 2295.368688 MHz | 2113.652000 MHz | Off | Off | NA | NA | NA | NA | High | 2048 | |
| 1/10 | Downlink threshold | V.1 | 2295.369056 MHz | 2113.652000 MHz | Off | Off | NA | N A | NA | NA | High | 128 | |
| 1/10 | Ranging system acquisition time | VII.1 | -112 dBm, 2295.368688 MHz | 2113.652000 MHz | On | Off | NA | NA | NA | NA | High | 128 | |
| 1/10 | Telemetry performance | IX.1 | 2295.368688 MHz | 2113.652000 MHz | Off | On | NA | NA | NA | NA | High | 128 | |
| | | IX.3 | 114 dBm, 2295.368688 MHz | 2118.652000 MHz | Off | On | NA | NA | NA | NA | High | 1024 | |
| 1/10 | Spacecraft command | XI.1 | -115 dBm, 2295.368688 MHz | 2113.652000 MHz | Off | On | NA | NA | NA | NA | High | 2048 | |
| | | XI.3 | -115 dBm, 2295.368688 MHz | 2113.652000 MHz | Off | On | NA | NA | NA | NA | High | 2048 | |

Table 2. DSN-Helios B-Launch Complex 41 telecommunications test summary

| | Spacecraft | | | | | | | Test d | _ | | |
|-----|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|----------|-------------------------------------|--|------------|--|
| EXC | RCV | PWR | ANT | TWT | RNG | SC DM | SC FM | Performance | Criteria | Test time | Test Comments |
| 1 | 1 and 2 -110 dBm | НР | LGA | 2 | Off | 0 | 4 | Acquired and tracked | Acquire at best lock, track to +32.5 kHz | 15 min | 2113.652000 kHz, best lock frequency SC receiver 1/2 |
| 1 | 1 and 2 -110 dBm | НР | LGA | 2 | Off | 0 | 4 | Acquired and tracked | Acquire at best lock, track to -32.5 kHz | - | |
| 1 | 1 | НР | LGA | 2 | Off | 0 | 4 | -157.2 dBm | To be measured | 2 hr 4 min | Average of 3 runs, link variance 1.5 dB p-p |
| 1 | 2 | HP | LGA | 2 | Off | 0 | 4 | -157.0 dBm | To be measured | _ | Average of 2 runs, link variance 1.5 dB p-p |
| 1 | 1 | HP | LGA | 1 | Off | 0 | 4 | —157.5 dBm | -159.0 ±3 dBm | 20 min | Average of 3 runs, link variance 8.0 dB p-p |
| 1 | 1 -116.5 dBm | HP | LGA | 1 | On | 0 | 4 | 1-minute acquisition 98827 RU | TBD | 8 min | 15 components, discrete 1 minute integration time |
| 1 | 1 -113 dBm | HP | LGA | 1 | Off | 0 | 4 | Decommutated data satisfactory | 30 min of decommutated data | 33 min | SDA freq. 131072.0 Hz |
| 1 | 2 -113 dBm | HP | LGA | 1 | Off | 0 | 4 | Decommutated data satisfactory | 30 min of decommutated data | 33 min | SDA freq. 131072.0 Hz |
| 1 | 1 -108 dBm | HP | LGA | 2 | Off | 0 | 4 | All good commands (210 commands) | All commands successfully received by SC | 39 min | Commands 501-506 512-Hz subcarrier |
| 1 | 2 -108 dBm | HP | LGA | 2 | Off | 0 | 4 | All good commands (210 commands) | All commands successfully received by SC | 42 min | Commands 501-506 448-Hz subcarrier |

Table 3. Definitions for Tables 1 and 2

| ANT | Spacecraft antenna |
|------------------|--|
| Bit rate | Clock frequency of the telemetry bit information |
| BLK III exciter | The standard DSN S-band exciter equipment |
| BLK III receiver | The standard DSN S-band receiving equipment |
| CAR SUP | Downlink carrier suppression due to telemetry modulation |
| CMA SUBC offset | Command modulation assembly subcarrier frequency offset relative to nominal |
| CMD | Telemetry and command data handling command modulation |
| EXC | Spacecraft S-band exciter equipment |
| HGA | High-gain antenna |
| LGA | Low-gain antenna |
| MGA | Medium-gain antenna |
| PRA RNG | Planetary ranging assembly modulation |
| PWR | Spacecraft transmitter power mode |
| RCV | Spacecraft S-band receiving equipment |
| RNG | Spacecraft ranging channel |
| SC DHE | Spacecraft data handling equipment |
| SC DM | Spacecraft data mode |
| SC FM | Spacecraft data format |
| SDA SUBC offset | Subcarrier demodulator assembly subcarrier frequency offset relative to nominal |
| TWT | Traveling wave tube amplifier |
| UNC | Uncoded |
| Uplink doppler | Ramp rate of the uplink carrier frequency |
| Uplink offset | Uplink carrier frequency offset relative to the spacecraft receiver rest frequency |